

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	412



WN Lexington

dress 177 Bedford Street

storic Name Lexington and Boston

Street Railway Company Powerhouse

e: Present Knights of Columbus Hall

Original Street Railway Powerhouse

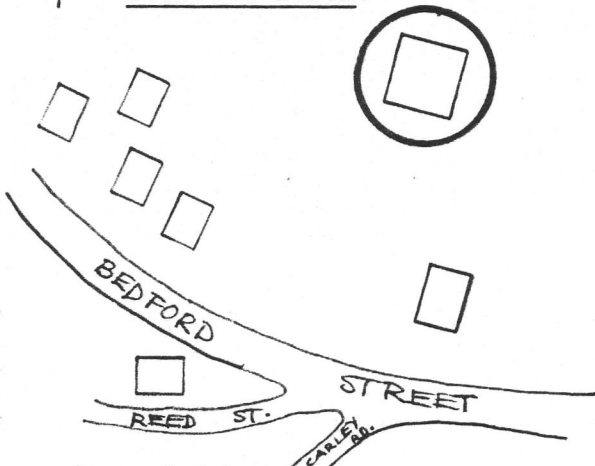
DESCRIPTION:

te c. 1899

Source Lexington Minute Man, Dec. 30, 1971

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

Style Neo-Classical Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) smokestack removed, one-story additions on right side and rear (after 1960)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 67992 ft.²

Setting Behind several recently constructed office buildings; adjacent to Lexington D.P.W. complex.

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This building combined fireproof construction and utilitarian function with graceful Classical Revival design. There are eight corbelled brick arches on the front and rear facades and six on the side elevations. The arches surmount the large arched windows which light the major story of the building. Above is an accenting string course of several corbelled rows of brick, the outermost row of which is comprised of semicircular bricks forming a continuous half-round molding. The basement story is defined by a high water table.

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Approval was finally granted by Town Meeting to lay tracks for electric trolley cars in Lexington in 1897. These replaced the horse cars which had been in operation since 1859. In 1900 the first trolleys of the Lexington and Boston Street Railway Company began to run. The company constructed car houses for summer and winter cars (demolished) and a fireproof powerhouse on Bedford Street. Electric power to run the cars was made by coal-fired steam dynamos, and stored in a storage battery house (demolished).

The last trolleys ran in 1926 and the tracks were torn up in 1927. Several businesses occupied the premises thereafter and during World War II a navy school was held here. The Knights of Columbus purchased the building in 1960, renovated it for their purposes and added one-story additions along the right side and rear.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

"100th Anniversary Edition," Lexington Minute Man, December 30, 1971.

Personal communication from James Cataldo.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

412

Property Name: 177 Bedford Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Bricks are fashioned into a quarter-round molding where the wall is offset. A pronounced metal cornice caps the facade and left side of the building, having been removed from the other sides. Window sills and lintels are of rough-cut granite. Owing to its use as a powerhouse, the walls of the building and even the interior partitions are three feet thick.

This building is almost in a class by itself in Lexington. Few examples of such monumental architecture exist in Lexington and this is the only one of Classical, Beaux Arts derivation.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom